

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1 - 8 stand rejected, and claims 9 - 12 are canceled pursuant to an election/restriction. Claim 13 - 23 are being added in this amendment. Claims 13 - 23 do not add any new matter. In response to the rejections related to claims 1 - 8, Applicants present the following remarks:

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Independent claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,784,291, issued to Chen, et al. (hereinafter “the Chen et al. reference”).

To briefly state the standard, rejections under Section 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. That is, one unit of prior art must contain all of the material elements recited in the rejected claim. In re Marshall, 198 USPQ 344 (CCPA 1978).

Amended claim 1 and its dependent claims describe an interface for communicating between electronic components. The interface comprises “a circuit” and “a plurality of pins, connected to the circuit” The plurality of pins correspond “to a set of target signals handling communication involving the component as a target and a set of initiator signals handling communication involving the component as an initiator” Amended claim 1 further states that “said initiator signals is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.”

The Chen et al. reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the use of a virtual component interface protocol. Specifically, the Chen et al. reference indicates that only a limited number of control signals are appropriate initiator signals for PCI control signals. Col. 80, lines 53 - 59. Moreover, the Chen et al. reference does not mention the virtual component interface (VCI) protocol. Thus, the Chen et al. reference cannot be said to anticipate that “said initiator signals is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.”

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that the Chen et al. reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest interface for communicating between electronic components described in amended claim 1 and its dependent claims.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that newly added independent claim 13 and its dependent claims are likewise allowable.

Amended claim 5 and its dependent claims describe an electronic component comprising “a circuit for a state machine to perform as a target and an initiator of a communication” and “a plurality of pins, connected to the circuit” The plurality of pins correspond “to a set of target signals handling communication involving the component as a target and a set of initiator signals handling communication involving the component as an initiator” Amended claim 5 further states that “said initiator signals is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.”

As noted above with regards to claim 1 and its dependent claims, the Chen et al. reference teaches that only a limited number of control signals are appropriate initiator signals for PCI control signals. Col. 80, lines 53 - 59. Furthermore, nowhere in the Chen et al. reference is the virtual component interface (VCI) protocol mentioned or referred to. Thus, the Chen et al.

reference cannot be said to anticipate that “said initiator signals is consistent with a virtual component interface protocol.”

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that the Chen et al. reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest interface for communicating between electronic components described in amended claim 5 and its dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 8 and 13 - 23 are believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010192001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7010192001.

Respectfully submitted,

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Dated: March 14, 2005

By: 

Stuart J. West
Reg. No. 43,258

Three Embarcadero Center, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94111-4067
Telephone: (650) 849-4930
Telefax: (650) 849-4800